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## Historical News

## By the Indiana Historical Commission

Almost daily we see evidences of the growing interest throughout Indiana in state and local history. No one, however, has characterized this phase of our work better than Mrs. Mindwell Crampton Wilson, newly elected state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution for Indiana. In speaking of the historical consciousness she says:

For months the state newspapers have contained a steadily increasing amount of material concerning local history. Historical items and reminiscences seem to jump up at us from every page. While much of the matter is a repetition, some rescue from the past facts worth preserving, and the whole is worth-while as answering the reproach that we of Indiana care nothing for our antecedents.

This movement—for by this time it has become a very perceptible movement—may be traced back to our centennial year, 1916, and the organized effort on the part of the state to promote an historical program. The observance of the centennial was of itself of course a great stimulus in that direction, with the creation of a special historical commission to take the business in hand. The appeals for local pageants and other demonstrations reached pretty nearly every county in the state quickening the historical sense as it never had been stirred before, while the celebrations staged by the state itself on a spectacular scale helped much to the desired end.

Our part in the World war stimulated our interest in collecting historical data. The state historical commission insisted that we keep accurate account of our war activities. After the war we were urged to organize a county historical society. We took an excursion through Adams township and found we were rich in history—and the local society was soon organized. We were fortunate in electing the right president and the right secretary to carry on the work.

Finally, if we are listing all the evidence of an awakening historical activity, mention should be made of the growing interest in historical markers, the latest of which was the Old Town marker, recently erected near Logansport, and the increasing number of pageants, most of them of an historical character, which are daily chronicled in the newspapers.

Carroll County Citizen-Times, October 14, 1922.

One of the signs of the increasing interest in local history is seen by the growing number of markers that are being erected on historical sites and spots over the state. Within the last few months a dozen or more historical markers have

been erected in Indiana, and the unveiling of each was the occasion of an historical gathering for the citizens of each respective community, at which time historical papers and addresses were read.

In Rush county a bronze tablet has been erected to the memory of the Revolutionary soldiers buried in that county. It contains 22 names, and has been placed in the corridor of the county court house in Rushville.

In Cass county on August 6th a marker was placed at Old Town on the site where the charge across the river against the Indians occurred on August 7, 1791. The Old Town chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was responsible for this marker.

In Lake county, Ross township, a bronze tablet was unveiled on August 28th to the memory of Bartlett Woods, Lake county pioneer, state senator, and a man of affairs. The Lake County historical and old settlers' association at their 46th annual meeting, unveiled the marker and were responsible for its erection.

In Elkhart county a marker consisting of a slab embedded in a granite boulder marking the grave of William Tuffs in Bonneyville cemetery, was unveiled by the order of Red Men of Elkhart. William Tuffs was a member of the Boston Tea Party, and one of the founders of the order of Red Men.

On September 17 at New Marion, Ripley county, a marker was dedicated marking the spot where the first court was held in that county. The stone stands alongside the Michigan road, and therefore serves as a marker for both the first seat of justice, and this historic highway. Joseph Hassmer, president of the Ripley County historical society, donated the stone for the marker.

On September 24 the Tipton County historical society placed two bronze tablets, one marking a log cabin, and the other an auditorium in the city park of Tipton. The building of these two was begun in 1916, as centennial memorials, but due to the interruption of the war the placing and dedication of the bronze tablets was delayed until this year.

In Grant county a marker on the site of the Mississinewa battlefield was dedicated in May, 1922. This marker was placed by the Marion high school, which, under the direction of Miss Cora M. Straughan, has been greatly interested in repairing the Indian burial ground near Jalapa, and preserving the cemetery as one of the landmarks in Grant county.

In July, 1922, a memorial to Julia V. Strauss, "Country Contributor," was unveiled in Turkey Run park, Parke county. This memorial was the gift of the Women's press club of Indiana.

In Wells county a marker was dedicated early in October, on the site where the first schoolhouse was built in Jackson township, that county.

In Decatur county two markers have been erected within the last two months. A monument unveiled by the Woman's Relief Corps September 8, 1922, in the court house yard was erected to the memory of the soldiers from the county who lost their lives in the Civil war. On November 11, the Lone Tree chapter of the D. A. R. dedicated a marker to Col. Thomas Hendricks, who made the first survey of what is now Decatur county. In the log cabin which he erected the first court was held in Decatur county, and the name Greensburg was selected for the county seat by Mrs. Thomas Hendricks in memory of her home town in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mary Stewart Carey, descendant of Col. Thomas Hendricks, donated the marker.

The historical and patriotic societies of Indianapolis and Marion county, aided by a special appropriation of the Indianapolis City Park board, will mark the site on which the John McCormick cabin stood, the first cabin built in Indianapolis. A huge New Hampshire granite boulder, mounted by a bronze tablet, showing a log cabin in relief, and with appropriate inscription, has been adopted for this marker.

On June 14, 1922, the Mary Penrose Wayne chapter of the D. A. R. in Fort Wayne dedicated a marker on the site where the last French fort stood in Ft. Wayne.

County historical societies have recently been organized in Shelby and Boone counties, and township historical societies have been organized in Montgomery and Tipton counties. On August 3, 1922, the Shelby County historical society, an outgrowth of the centennial celebration, was organized with the following officers: R. W. Harrison, president; Lottie Tatman, vice-president; Mrs. Catherine Kennedy, secretary, and Clarence Crockett, treasurer. Dr. Samuel Kennedy, of Shelbyville, recently donated a valuable lot to be used as the home of the building for the Shelby County historical society.

The Boone County historical society organized October 11 elected John Herr, president; Herschel Richardson, vice-president; Ralph W. Stark, secretary, and Mrs. Mamie Clingler, treasurer. The Boone county organization plans to do things. Township historical societies have been organized in every township in the county and a thorough historical survey of the county is now under way.

Early in August the Ladoga Township historical society was organized, consisting of Scott and Clark townships in Montgomery county. This is reported as the first township organization in the state. The officers elected are W. L. Anderson, president; Lydia Hostetter, secretary, and Hallie Sidener, treasurer.

In Tipton county township historical societies have been organized in every township in the county. Regular meetings are held and the archeological and historical survey planned by the Indiana historical commission is being carried on in a thorough and vigorous manner.

The annual fall meeting of the Southwestern Indiana historical society was held in Boonville, Friday, September 29, 1922. A paper on the Wabash and Erie Canal, by Judge Edward Gough of Boonville; Early Recollections of Evansville, by Mary F. Reilley; Items of Warrick County History, by Herman Collins, and talks by Judge John E. Iglehart and Senator Roscoe Kiper were the chief features of the program. Judge Iglehart, president of the Southwestern Indiana historical society, pronounced this meeting "the most successful ever held."

Bulletin No. 16 of the Indiana Historical Commission, published in October, 1922, contains a complete copy of the proceedings of the meeting of the Southwestern Indiana historical society held at Evansville, January 31, 1922.

The Society of Indiana Pioneers has made two historical pilgrimages during the last few months to points of interest in Indiana. The first one was to Hamilton county where the members visited the site of the Conner mill and other points of local historical interest. The second pilgrimage was to New Harmony, Posey county, for a day's visit, viewing the many interesting historical sites in Posey county.

Increasing interest in centennial-historical celebrations has been noticed in several counties during the past year. In Madison county early in September a centennial was held, featuring the historical development of the county's growth during the past century. Historical floats and exhibits of historical relics and a talk on the early history of Madison county by Frank P. Foster were the chief features of the historical celebration.

On October 12-13, Morgan county celebrated its 100th anniversary with a splendid centennial program. Historical pageants, parades, and an exhibit of old relics were the chief features emphasized in this celebration. Pictures of the parade and the crowds that assembled were made, and later shown in the movie houses in Martinsville. The Morgan County historical society brought the film and will show the pictures throughout the other towns in Morgan county.

Montgomery county in planning for its one hundredth anniversary by holding several meetings and historical programs in Crawfordsville and throughout the county. Clubs and other organizations are making special exhibits of relics and pioneer displays, and a thorough centennial awakening is noted among the citizens of this county. The centennial celebration will be held during the summer of 1923.